Towards modernisation Government has already taken several measures like liberal incentives for setting up in house R&D units, licensing of industries based on indigenous techology, fiscal incentives including incentives for import of certain equipments considered necessary for transfer of technology.

(c) Modernisation will help in better utilisation of available raw materials at lower cost. All-cut efforts are being made for augmenting production of oilseeds by increasing productivity to achieve self-reliance in vegetable oils.

Conversion of Harijans in Meerut, U.P.

1302. SHRI BHUVNESH CHATURVEDI : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to reported conversions of Harijans into Sikhism near Meerut city of Uttar Pradesh on 26th January, 1990;

(b) if so, what are the reasons for such conversions; and

(c) what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR AND WELFARE (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (c) The material is being collected from the Government of Uttar Pradesh and will be laid on the table of the House.

Commercial operation by NDDB

1303. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that NDDB is conducting commercial operation such as dairy machinery imports and sales, Consultancy services, sale of Dhara Oil and other products and undertaking contracts, etc. like other public undertakings;

(b) whether NDDB is paying Income Tax and other taxes like other public sector units;

(c) whether NDDB is paying Bonus to all its employees; and

(d) whether NDDB is subject to audit by CAG ?

THE DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI DEVI LAL) : (a) The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) is performing its functions in accordance with the provisions of Section 16 of the NDDB Act, 1987.

(b) As per the provisions of the NDDB Act, 1987, the NDDB is exempted from the payment of Income Tax. However, NDDB is paying other taxes viz., Sales Tax, Excise Duty etc. as per existing laws.

(c) The question of payment of bonus by NDDB to its employees is *sub-judice* before the Supreme Court. The NDDB is paying every year ex-gratia compensation to its eligible employees.

(d) Section 28(1) of the NDDB Act, 1987 provides that the accounts of NDDB shall be audited by auditors duly qualified to act as auditors of companies under the Companies Act.

Audit of Accounts of NDDB

1304. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state :

(a) whether accounts of NDDB and erstwhile IDC were being audited by CAG;

(b) whether it is a fact that under new NDDB Act 1987, CAG is not competent to audit A/C's of NDDB handling nearly Rs. 2000 of public funds;

(c) whether Government have been IDCs reports of 1982-83, 1983-84, 1984-85 and 1985-86 incorporating comments of CAG; and

(d) whether as per Government procedures all non-official chairman are required to draw token Re. 1/- per month as salary and if so, reasons for dispending with the practice ?